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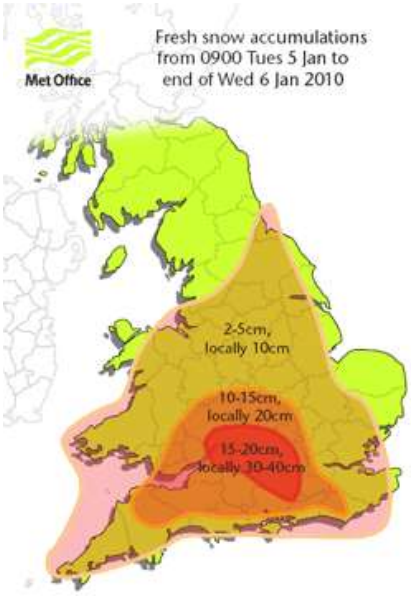
Heavy snow for southern England

5 January 2010


Met Office
Fresh snow accumulations from 0900 Tues 5 Jan to end of Wed 6 Jan 2010
2-5cm, locally 10cm
10-15cm, locally 20cm
15-20cm, locally 30-40cm

Heavy snowfall is expected across southern areas of England, which have not seen snow so far during this cold spell, as freezing conditions persist across the country.

The heavy snow that has been affecting Scotland and northern England is moving south and the heaviest falls over the next 24 hours are expected across parts of central and southern England and south-east Wales.

Met Office Chief Forecaster, Tony Waters, says: “The heaviest snowfall this evening and tonight is expected across parts of Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire where fresh snowfall of 15 to 20 cm is expected widely, and locally in excess of 30 cm. This is expected to cause disruption to transport networks and could lead to problems with power supplies.”

Our forecasters and advisors are working closely with the Highways Agency, local authorities and Government agencies to ensure the country is prepared for the affects of the weather.

Derek Turner, Network Operations Director at the Highways Agency, says: “We are working flat out to keep our roads safe and serviceable for use. However, it is very important to drive appropriately for the conditions, and even when roads are treated and appear ice- and snow-free, they should still be negotiated with care.”

The current cold weather started in mid December and it has been the most prolonged spell of freezing conditions across the UK since December 1981. Bitterly cold and wintry weather is forecast to continue for the next couple of weeks with further snowfall expected at times.

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